



For immediate release

IDOC Pulls in Donations for Special Olympics

Indianapolis, IN (August 11, 2011) – On Saturday, August 6, teams from three Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) facilities participated in the 2011 FedEx Plane Pull Challenge at the former Indianapolis International Airport.

Teams of up to 22 individuals competed to see who could pull a FedEx Boeing 757 jet, weighing more than 164,000 pounds, 12 feet across the tarmac in the fastest time. More than 1,200 people signed up to participate in the 10th annual FedEx Plane Pull Challenge to raise money for Special Olympics of Indiana.



Members of the Plainfield Emergency Squad pull a FedEx Boeing 757.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility Emergency Squad, who have organized a team for five years called the Plainfield Pirates, won the Public Safety Division for the first time ever with a time of 6.601 seconds.

A returning team from the Westville Correctional Facility won the Lowest Combined Weight competition, pulling the 82 ton plane with only four team members and a combined weight of 917 pounds. Westville Correctional Facility and New Castle Correctional Facility both competed in the All Star division, which is comprised of teams that were division winners from previous years. The Westville Correctional Facility team came in second place in the All Star division at 6.092 seconds, and the New Castle Correctional Facility took the top prize, beating out Westville with a time of 5.602 seconds. New Castle was also recognized for raising the most of any Public Safety team bringing in \$4,535.



The Westville Plane Pull Team with trophy in hand.

The three facilities combined raised over \$6000 total for Special Olympics Indiana. The Pendleton Correctional Facility collected an additional \$514.45 to support this event and the Special Olympics Indiana through donations from staff and the facility's PLUS program.

IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon expressed his gratitude to staff who participated, "I couldn't be prouder of the teams from our facilities that participate in this event year after year. Their continued support for Special Olympics Indiana is a testament to their willingness to give back to the community."

Plane Pull History

Trademarked as a fundraising event unique to Special Olympics programs throughout the United States, the FedEx Plane Pull® Challenge got its start in Indiana in 2002 through the inspiration of FedEx Senior Ramp Tower Controller and Special Olympics Indiana volunteer Eric Garrett. After hearing of Special Olympics Virginia's success with its own Plane Pull event, Garrett introduced the idea to Special Olympics Indiana. The Indiana Plane Pull grew from about 15 teams in 2002 to more than 64 in 2011.

About Special Olympics Indiana

Special Olympics Indiana is a not-for-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in over 21 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 12,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal or state appropriated funds, is not a United Way agency and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. For more information about Special Olympics Indiana, call (317) 328-2000 or visit <http://www.soindiana.org>.

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